

Recreation Plan 2017 - 2021

Achievements

What did we achieve from our current Plan?

- The current plan has been instrumental in supporting delivering of Council's vision – thriving, sustainable, inclusive, and connected community. The following achievements are highlighted to demonstrate outcomes from the Recreation Plans key goals:

Goal 1 – Facilities

Our community has equitable access to multipurpose, inclusive, accessible, and sustainable facilities.

Key outcome highlights

- Successful change facility upgrades of 10 sports pavilions and full pavilion reconstructions of another seven (7) to support increased growth in female participation, and inclusive use.
- 15 sports fields upgraded of 100 Lux LED lighting to accommodate increased demand for training times and improved lighting standards.
- Implementation of 17 Synthetic cricket wicket replacements and/or practice nets to meet Cricket standards for community competition.
- Construction of Tennis court lighting and resurfacing at 11 tennis facilities to improve standard and facilitate 'book a court' for broad community use.
- Development of five (5) a side soccer pitch at Malahang Reserve in partnership with Australian Sports Commission and Melbourne City Soccer to support participation of young people in Heidelberg West.
- Development of Sports Facility Capital Works Policy to provide clear and consistent approaches to development and provision of new and upgraded sports facilities.
- Development of outdoor Netball courts at Seddon Reserve, West Ivanhoe and Nets Stadium, Macleod – in partnership with Macleod College.

Indicators of change

- In 2023, 74% of residents reported that recreational facilities were extremely or very important, and the same amount rated recreational facilities performance as good or very good (Community Satisfaction Survey 2023).
- In 2023, 12% of residents reported that the recreational/sporting facilities was the best thing about council (second most mentioned 'best thing') (Community Satisfaction Survey 2023).

Goal 2 – Communication and Education

Our community has knowledge and awareness of opportunities and feel supported in the delivery of recreation.

Key outcome highlights

- New Sporting Facilities User Guide and Allocation Policy adopted to provide clarity around process, decision making and expectations for use of seasonal sporting grounds and facilities.

- Implementation of new online booking System (IMS) for sporting clubs to support self-service, automation and more effective management of seasonal allocation process.
- Provision of Online training, sports forums, and seminars to support club development, networking and capacity building. Topics included: Strategic Planning, grants, Volunteer management, diversity and inclusion, Liquor licensing and marketing.

Indicators of change

- In 2023, 57% of residents reported that Council had performed either 'Very Good' or 'Good' on informing the community over the last 12 months (Community Satisfaction Survey 2023).
- 90% of seasonally allocated clubs successfully utilising online booking system.

Goal 3 – Informal opportunities

Our community can access and participate in diverse activities that enhance their wellbeing.

Key outcome highlights

- Introduction of Parkrun at Warringal Park with 1000 participants at launch and an average of 400 'attendees per week.
- Delivery of Nature Play Programs, including Star gazing and Possum Prowl, average of 400 attended each.
- Delivery of annual free movies and music in the park over summer to encourage informal use of our parks and open spaces for leisure and entertainment.
- Creation of Banyule Leisure's *Equity Program* to assist people experiencing disadvantage to access programs and services by subsidising participation costs to leisure facilities.

Indicators of change

- In 2023, residents ranked the importance of the ability to view and participate in sport and recreation as 15% (comparable to the Victorian average of 16%), and they ranked their experience as 7/10 (comparable to the Victorian average of 7.2) (Living in Place Survey 2023). Banyule men rated importance as higher (20%) compared to women (12%).
- Banyule men rated importance of the ability to view and participate in sport and recreation as higher (20%) compared to women (12%) (Living in Place Survey 2023).

Goal 4 - Participation and Partnership

Our community is actively involved, has strong and connected sense of belonging.

Key Outcomes highlights

- Partnership with LaTrobe University Sports Park Indoor Stadium, ensuring access to the facility for Banyule sports community. An average of 6400 hours annually for Banyule based sports clubs.
- Implementation of Book a Court system at seven tennis clubs to support broad community access at all times.
- Provision of women only swim and gym at Olympic Leisure Centre.
- Delivery of Access All Abilities programs in partnership with Disability Sports Victoria and five Banyule sporting Clubs.
- Securing of significant State government funding over the five years to support implementation of sports infrastructure projects including negotiation for the development of three new sports pavilions and sports fields at cost of 30M from North East Link to support sporting clubs impacted with displacement.

Indicators of change

- In 2022, 69.9% of residents reported engaging in sport and recreation activities - a slight decrease from 71.3% in 2017. Among participants, men were more likely than women to participate. In relation to age, children (5-12 years) were the most likely to participate, while older adults (60+) were the least likely to participate. The most frequently cited activity was exercising in a park (25%), followed by gym/group fitness (22.7%), cycling/bike riding (20%), swimming (18.1%), and yoga/pilates/tai chi (11.4%), according to the Household Survey 2022.
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- In relation to organised sport, the 2022 Household Survey found the following participation:
 - Golf: 6.7%
 - Basketball: 6.4%
 - Australian Rules Football: 5.7%
 - Tennis: 5.2%
 - Soccer: 3.4%
 - Cricket: 3.0%
 - Netball: 2.3%
 - Skateboarding/BMX: 1.7%